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# The Times

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## Six cases of coronavirus confirmed in county

by JENN WATT  
Editor

Health professionals are continuing to encourage the community to observe physical distancing and hand-washing practices with six cases of coronavirus in Haliburton County confirmed by the health unit as of Tuesday.

Details about the people who have tested positive for the virus, such as which municipality they reside in or whether they have had contact with each other, have not been made available to the public.

Dr. Norm Bottum of the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team said the message the public should be receiving from news that there are now several cases of COVID-19 within the county is that efforts should be made to stop the spread.

"If you are unwell and have any possible contact with COVID-19 positive individuals, you should be doing the online assessment and if directed contact the assessment centre for a possible nasal swab," Bottum said in an email to the *Times* on Tuesday.

The Haliburton County COVID-19  
see PUBLIC page 2

## Lake associations donate \$25K to food banks

by CHAD INGRAM  
Times Staff

During the past two weeks, the lake associations of Haliburton County have collectively donated more than \$25,000 to the county's food banks, as well as SIRCH Community Services.

Associations have been making donations and challenging others to do the same as demand at local food banks increases amid job layoffs in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. SIRCH is offering a program providing frozen meals to community members.

Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations board chairman Paul MacInnes

said more donations are expected to come in, as associations share the campaign with their members via their social media channels, websites and email blasts. MacInnes noted that while charity Canada Helps has created a fund-matching COVID-19 Community Care Fund to help food banks and other organizations, the money donated there is put into a general pot, rather than directed to specific organizations. MacInnes recommends that individuals or associations donate directly to local organizations.

Joanne Barnes, manager of the Minden Community Food Bank, told the *Times* that demand is gradually increasing, and is up about 20 per cent overall. "Regular clients

see SOURCING page 3



### Keeping traditions

Three-year-old Hazel Alder grabs an egg during a family Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday, April 12 at her Minden home. With efforts to reduce the spread of the coronavirus continuing in Ontario, all public Easter events were cancelled this year and the only egg hunts have been held at residences. /Photo submitted by Carolyn Alder

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# Public health guidelines never more important

from page 1

Assessment Centre was opened March 31 in the parking lot outside the medical centre in Haliburton. Those seen at the centre must first do the online self-assessment and then make an appointment. The centre is available for those with mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms.

Last week, in an effort to separate potential COVID-19 cases from other health issues, Haliburton Highlands Health Services reorganized its admissions, with respiratory cases going to the Haliburton site and non-respiratory cases in Minden. It also expanded the number of beds available at both locations with 21 beds for COVID-19 needs in Haliburton and nine for non-COVID-19 admissions in Minden.

"It is important to first note that both the HHHS Minden and Haliburton sites are prepared to safely accept patients, whether they are presenting with respiratory illness or not," a press release from HHHS issued April 8 states. "Staff are following strict safety precautions in all HHHS facilities, including screening everyone who enters either site, using personal protective equipment (PPE), and creating appropriate spacing for distancing between patients."

People with respiratory symptoms who are intending to visit the emergency department are encouraged to go to the Haliburton site and those with other health concerns are asked to go to the Minden site – although no one will be turned

away from either site.

"Care may be redirected between sites, depending on care needs and COVID considerations," HHHS's statement says.

Respiratory symptoms include cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing and fever.

In an email to the paper following the first case of COVID-19, Stephanie MacLaren, VP community programs, reminded people there is community spread across the province.

"There has never been a more important time for each and every single resident of Haliburton County to follow the guidelines issued by public health – keeping physical distance from anyone who doesn't reside in your home, staying home other than essential outings for groceries, prescriptions or medical care, frequently washing your hands (for at least 20 seconds each time), and self-isolating if you have any symptoms of COVID-19," she said.

As of Tuesday, April 14, along with the six cases in Haliburton County, the local health unit has reported 109 confirmed cases in Kawartha Lakes, which includes those affected by the outbreak at Pinecrest Nursing Home, and 14 confirmed cases in Northumberland for a total of 129 confirmed cases in the HKPR District Health Unit area.

There have been seven hospitalizations, 33 deaths and one outbreak related to COVID-19 in the HKPR District Health Unit area as reported on the HKPR website.

Space has been made available at Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre for HHHS staff "who would feel more comfortable staying in a location other than their home residence after their shifts or are challenged working extra-long hours, commuting home, only to have to turn around and commute right back to work," HHHS CEO Carolyn Plummer said in her weekly update issued April 10. "These accommodations will not be used by any staff who have to self-isolate."

The HHHS CEO also asked members of the public not to bring food donations to staff and physicians, who cannot accept the donations. She advised that donations are better directed to local food banks.

"I also want to recognize all of the efforts being made community-wide to pull together, support one another, and deliver services and materials to those in need," she said. "From the emergency responder parades through Haliburton and Minden villages, to the messages of thanks for frontline workers, to the creative collaborations and innovative changes to 'business as usual' – thank you for lifting our spirits, working to protect the health and safety of our community, and showing kindness in the face of hardship."

The online coronavirus self assessment can be found at [Ontario.ca/coronavirus](https://Ontario.ca/coronavirus). If directed by the self-assessment, call the Haliburton Family Medical Centre at 705-457-1212 (press 6) to set up an appointment.

## Serious injuries after UTV crashes near Norland

On April 11, members of the City of Kawartha Lakes Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police and emergency crews were called to assist at a serious collision on Hiltons Point Road shortly after 7 p.m.

A utility terrain vehicle left the roadway and struck a tree. The driver, and lone occupant, was a 29-year-old man from Norland. The driver was transported to a Toronto area trauma centre by Ornge air ambulance with serious, but non-life-threatening injuries.

Hiltons Point Road remained closed for several hours while OPP members trained in collision reconstruction measured and documented the scene. The circumstances surrounding this cause of the collision remain under investigation.



Yoga instructor Gail Holness is offering her classes online as a fundraiser for Haliburton Highlands Health Services. Since launching the initiative last week, she's raised more than \$1,000. /Screenshot

## Donations roll in for HHHS from online yoga classes

by JENN WATT  
Editor

Yoga instructor Gail Holness is reaching out to the community and helping to give back by moving her classes online and providing access through donations to Haliburton Highlands Health Services.

She said the closure of the schools and community centres affected her directly: "I was in effect, like so many others, out of a job," she wrote in an email to the *Times*. "... It was hard to sleep and impossible to know what to do next."

Holness decided that she would take her classes online, with access made available by donation. She added two donate buttons to her website last week – one for \$20 and the other for \$50 – and by Tuesday, April 14, she had raised more than \$1,000.

Because she doesn't have an internet connection at home, Holness had to rely on the generosity of others to record and post her videos.

"I reached out to the community and Quantum Passivhaus offered their hand. Owners Angie and Abby Xerri felt that during this unsettled time it was more important than ever that I continue teaching and helping the community," she said.

"They gave me a key to their office, a space to set up my mat and access to their internet. Because of them, I am able to offer my classes online as a way of raising money for HHHS."

The initiative, which Holness calls "Online for our Frontline," asks for a \$20 donation in exchange for access to a live online class and a recorded video of that class for later use. A \$50 donation grants access to all online classes for the month of April – posted Monday through Thursday, plus a recorded copy.

People responded almost immediately to the fundraiser.

"The donations [started] coming in, by the end of the weekend I had raised \$1,000. That number continues to grow," Holness said. "I have people joining me from all over. Today my classes reached all the way to Jamaica."

She said she's sending a link to Lisa Tompkins, executive director of the HHHS Foundation, to distribute to all frontline workers. She is also creating short, easy-to-follow weekly videos for seniors and those at risk, which she is posting to her Facebook page.

Holness said the project has been uplifting.

"Everyone wanting to help! Everyone wanting to share. It has been a wonderful experience and I am very grateful for all the support I continue to receive," she said.

To find out more, go to [facebook.com/gail.holness.1](https://facebook.com/gail.holness.1) or [holnessyoga.ca](https://holnessyoga.ca).



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# Flooding remains unlikely Sourcing food new challenge

Severe flooding in the county remains unlikely, according to a water levels update from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

At press time, the MNRF's Bancroft District, which includes Haliburton County, remains under what the ministry refers to as a water safety advisory, which "indicates that high flows, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous for such users as boaters, anglers and swimmers, but flooding is not expected."

"The impact of recent warm temperatures and rainfall has reduced the snowpack throughout Bancroft District but substantial snowpack with above average snow water content remains in the northern half of the district," reads a release from the ministry. "Above freezing temperatures and precipitation are likely to further degrade the snowpack."

There are nearly 30 feeder and flow-

through lakes throughout Haliburton County that are part of the feeder system for the Trent Severn Canal, water levels adjusted through a series of dams. The water from those lakes drains through the channel of the Gull River through downtown Minden, before making its way down the system.

Tips residents in flood-prone areas can keep in mind to protect their properties include installing and checking sump pumps; moving any important materials or documents out of basements; installing backflow valves or standpipes to prevent sewer lines from backing up; elevating appliances such as washers, dryers and water heaters on concrete blocks or anchoring them and protecting them with a flood shield; and having a flood detection device installed in their basement.

Chad Ingram, Staff

from page 1

are coming and now the newly unemployed and those who were expecting to get back to work now but can't due to COVID-19," Barnes said.

While the food bank has funds, Barnes said that actually getting food is now posing a challenge due to a shortage of product. The food bank has been sourcing from a couple of wholesalers, and was waiting on those shipments earlier this week. More than 225 families rely on Minden's food bank. It remains open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. The phone number for the Minden Community Food Bank is 705-286-6838.

"We are experiencing increased demand but so far this is manageable," David Ogilvie, chairman of the board for Haliburton's 4Cs Food Bank and Lily Ann told the *Times*. "Some food items are a little scarcer but again, as usual, our local grocery stores are assisting us."

While the Lily Ann, the food bank's main source of income, has been closed amid the pandemic,

Ogilvie noted a surge in donations is allowing it to meet the needs of the community.

"We have had good response from many caring folk in our community and significantly more response from cottage associations and individual cottagers than I can remember," Ogilvie wrote in an email to the *Times*. "It is difficult to express adequately the appreciation all of the county food banks have. The donations help relieve the initial financial pressures we felt when so many people began losing their jobs and began turning to us for help."

More information on Haliburton's 4Cs Food Bank and its mailing address can be found on its website at [www.haliburton4cs.org](http://www.haliburton4cs.org) and e-transfers can be made to [4csfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:4csfoodbank@gmail.com).

The Highlands East Food Hub can be reached at 705-448-9711 and information on the programming being offered by SIRCH Community Services as well as donation options can be found at [www.sirch.on.ca](http://www.sirch.on.ca)

## Drugs, guns, cash seized from Haliburton Highlands property

On Thursday, April 9, the Haliburton Highlands and City of Kawartha Lakes Central Street Crime Unit with the assistance of the Central Region Tactical Response Unit and Central Region Canine officers, executed a warrant at an address on Hutchings Road, in Dysart et al.

Seized at this address was a large quantity of cocaine with an approximate value of \$23,000, and a small quantity of crystal

methamphetamine, in addition to approximately \$7,100 in Canadian currency, four restricted firearms, and one prohibited firearm. Also recovered at this address was a stolen side-by-side UTV valued at \$5,500. This investigation spanned over several months and was aimed at drug trafficking in the Haliburton Highlands.

As a result of this investigation several individuals were arrested and charged including

a 29-year-old from Ajax, a 39-year-old from Haliburton, a 29-year-old from Haliburton, a 42-year-old from Haliburton and a 26-year-old from Minden Hills.

All are scheduled to appear in the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden on July 8.

The Ontario Provincial Police encourage members of the public to report criminal activities to police so they may be investigated in an effort to reduce the harm and social im-

pact on our communities and residents.

If you would like to report information to the police you can call the OPP at 1-888-310-1122, report online at [opp.ca](http://opp.ca), or contact Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or online at [ontariocrimestoppers.ca](http://ontariocrimestoppers.ca).

Information provided by the Haliburton Highlands OPP

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### DISCLAIMER

The information provided on this page is considered current and valid as of April 9, 2020.

While the Township of Minden Hills works diligently to provide the public with the most current information regarding service provisions and reductions during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are aware that, due to the rapidly evolving nature of the outbreak, information can, and may, change on a daily basis. The public is strongly encouraged to refer to our website at [www.mindenhills.ca](http://www.mindenhills.ca) for current and up-to-date information. Anyone unable to access the website can call 705-286-1260 or email [admin@mindenhills.ca](mailto:admin@mindenhills.ca) for assistance.

### TO OUR MANY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Minden Hills Staff and Council would like to thank all the Committee and Board members, the Fire Department and all the individuals who volunteer their time to assist in the many Township events and programs throughout the year. Your continued commitment and enthusiasm in helping develop our community is greatly appreciated. Minden Hills wouldn't be the wonderful place it is without all of you!

And to all those who have been volunteering or assisting others in various ways during this uncertain time, we want to say THANK YOU! Your caring and thoughtfulness, while maintaining safety measures to help reduce the risk of COVID-19, are greatly appreciated. Your actions have such a positive impact on so many in our community.



### TAX DUE DATE EXTENSION

The tax due date for the 1st installment of the 2020 interim tax billing is extended to **April 24, 2020**, without penalty or interest.

### TOWNSHIP SERVICE PROVISION REDUCTIONS

A reminder that all Township facilities remain closed to the public, until further notice. Administrative call answering services will remain available between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM Monday to Friday, 705-286-1260 listen carefully to the full message and follow the message prompts or [admin@mindenhills.ca](mailto:admin@mindenhills.ca).

Please provide your name, contact information (phone and/or email) and a clear and brief message regarding the reason for your call.

The public can be assured that essential services will be maintained as much as possible.

**We are asking the public to restrict inquiries to Township priority requests only and please understand that it may take longer to reply to messages as Staff handle increased phone and email inquiries.**

We are also asking the public for their patience during this time and to observe our request to contact the Township for municipal related inquiries by the following methods only:

Telephone: 705-286-1260 listen carefully to the full message and follow the message prompts  
Email: [admin@mindenhills.ca](mailto:admin@mindenhills.ca)

**Please do not call or email the various Departments or their related extensions or submit inquiries through the Minden Hills website Contact Us form.**

If you are aware of anyone who is not adhering to the Government's order which prohibits organized public events and social gatherings of more than five (5) people, or who are not practicing appropriate physical distancing; you are encouraged to contact your local police department or the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or online by visiting [opp.ca/reporting](http://opp.ca/reporting).

**CLOSED  
TEMPORARILY**

For a complete list of all Township service provision reductions, please go to:

[www.mindenhills.ca/covid-19-information/](http://www.mindenhills.ca/covid-19-information/)

### MEETINGS

All Council, Committee of the Whole, Public, Advisory Committee and Local Board regularly scheduled meetings have been suspended until further notice.

### ARENA PROJECT CONSTRUCTION SITE CLOSED

Based on the interpretation of the government's announcement made Friday, April 3, 2020 by Premier Ford, the Minden Hills Arena project is no longer classified as an "essential service".

In order to abide by the government restrictions being implemented in the effort to control the spread of COVID-19 and to protect workers and the public, McDonald Brothers Construction (MBC) have closed the site to all activities effective Monday April 6, 2020.

The site will remain closed until further notice.

For a complete list of all Township service provision reductions, please go to: [www.mindenhills.ca/covid-19-information/](http://www.mindenhills.ca/covid-19-information/)

### SPRING THAW REMINDER

A reminder that springtime is typically the time of year when periods of precipitation historically occur. Property owners are reminded to be aware of and monitor their situation, as each can vary depending on: distance from watershed(s), distance from an unaffected accessible road, height of land, property saturation levels; and the availability, number, size and type of sump pump, etc.

Visit <https://mindenhills.ca/emergency-fire-services/flood-information/> for more information.





Haliburton United Church's pianist and organist Melissa Stephens sings a hymn during a virtual Good Friday sermon given by Reverend Max Ward on April 10. Churches have had to alter their services to allow for physical distancing to limit the spread of the coronavirus.



**Easter goes online**

Reverend Max Ward of the Minden United Church delivers his Good Friday sermon to his congregation with the teleconferencing app Zoom at the Haliburton United Church on Friday, April 10. Ward thanked Reverend Harry Morgan for allowing him the use of the Haliburton church since the connection in Minden wasn't strong enough for a live-stream service. His first online sermon was delivered on March 22. Before the sermons, people use the 15 minutes to socialize with each other on the app. Some of the participants include those who have moved away and wanted to remain connected to the congregation./ DARREN LUM Staff

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**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK  
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The Township of Minden Hills would like to express their appreciation to all of the volunteers within the community who have contributed their time and energy in supporting our annual special events, lending a hand at our Cultural Centre, sharing concerns and ideas on our advisory committees, keeping youth and seniors active through a variety of programming and so much more!

*thank you*



**Holiday creativity**  
Siblings Hayden Thorn, 12, left, and sister Fallon, 10, wave from behind the Easter inspired glass sliding doors at their Carnarvon home. Their mother Cassie said the idea to decorate the windows came from seeing other window paintings on social media and that Fallon primarily led the effort. It was completed the end of March./DARREN LUM Staff







### Distancing at the Dominion

Albert Saxby prepares to perform during the Haliburton County Folk Society's live-stream concert on April 11 at the Dominion Hotel in Minden. The hour-long show attracted more than 70 viewers who tuned in live on Facebook, and many more who watched the video after. On April 25, Cassidy Taylor will be doing the same, performing her music starting at 7:30 p.m. It's free to watch the performances, with the option of leaving a tip for the artist. /DON GAGE Special to the Times



## Emergency eye care available

Although the office of Haliburton optometrist Rene Benoit is closed to regular appointments during the coronavirus pandemic, he is available for urgent and emergency eye-related concerns for anyone in the county (patients and non-patients).

Dr. Benoit closed his clinic to everyday eye care on March 25.

He will answer phone calls weekdays from 10 a.m. to noon and from 2 to 5 p.m. (excluding weekends and holidays). He is in regular contact with the county's family doctors and the eye surgeon on-call in Lindsay and Peterborough.

Call 705-457-1400 to get in touch with Dr. Benoit.

## Receive the Times Free

To ensure important information is accessible to the community during the coronavirus pandemic, for a limited time, the Minden Times will send out FREE e-editions of our newspaper.

Please email our circulation manager Debbie Comer [debbie@haliburtonpress.com](mailto:debbie@haliburtonpress.com) with your email address and name.

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## The best they can

**T**HE ONGOING COVID-19 pandemic and its accompanying self-isolation practices, which we're about a month into in this country, are exhausting and extremely stressful for, well, everybody.

But imagine the pressure that would come with being the premier of the province, or the prime minister of the country right now.

At first blush, Justin Trudeau and Doug Ford may not seem to have much in common. However, both are from prominent families with varying degrees of political pedigree, both surnames affiliated with the brand of their respective political parties in at least some capacity. Both are adored by a portion of their parties, and both are reviled by at least some of their political rivals.

Now Trudeau and Ford have something else in common, and that's being in power during the biggest public health crisis that most of us alive have ever witnessed. It's presumably something they didn't count on when they were putting their names on the ballot. And, by and large, they are both doing a good job.

Day after day, for a month now, they stand before the cameras of the national media, providing daily updates on government response to the COVID-19 pandemic, an invisible, shape-shifting enemy that we don't completely understand. How to best flatten the curve of the virus, when the peak of that curve might come, when a vaccine might be developed – all of these things are essentially educated best guesses from the global scientific community.

Ontarians and Canadians are scared for their lives, and for their livelihoods. Not only must both leaders keep up to speed on the day's disease data, both legislatures have been having emergency meetings, passing legislation

worth tens of billions of dollars in aid. The national and provincial economies are essentially on pause, people are being laid off left, right and centre, and many businesses will never reopen their doors. In its wake the COVID-19 crisis will leave a global economic recession/depression that will stretch on for years. All of that seems like it could cause more than one or two sleepless nights for those in leadership positions.

Both Ford and Trudeau have been criticized at times, which is of course the nature of politics. In early press briefings, Ford was criticized for still having cabinet ministers standing shoulder-to-shoulder behind him on stage, a practice that ceased a few weeks ago now. Ontario's initial list of "essential" businesses that would still be permitted to operate came under scrutiny for being too lenient, and has since been revised. Finding the balance between

**CHAD INGRAM**  
Reporter

protecting public health while trying to avoid completely killing the economy cannot be easy.

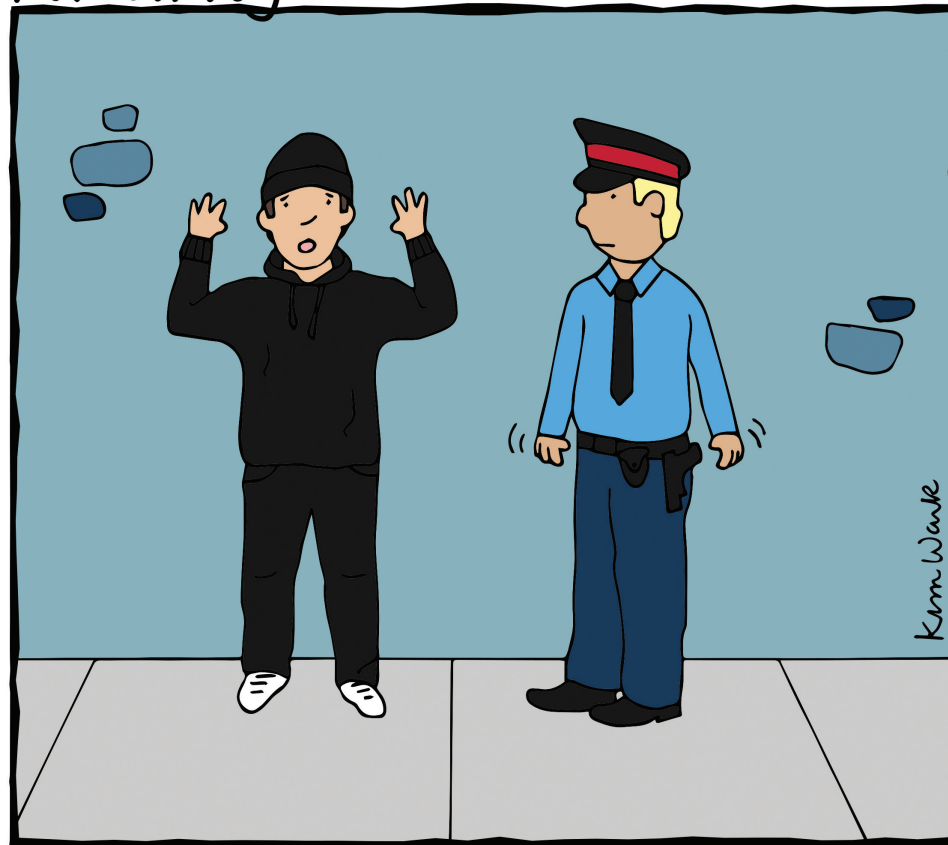
When he was first in self-isolation, Trudeau was accused of "hiding," and when he came out of self-isolation, he was criticized for doing that. As I write this, he's being criticized for taking a 15-minute trip into Quebec to spend Easter with his wife and children.

All of these criticisms seem frivolous against the immense scope of the ongoing pandemic, and its myriad and substantial social and economic consequences. We are in uncharted waters here. These are dark and stressful times.

You may dislike Trudeau. You may dislike Ford. You may not care very much for either of them. But in the face of unprecedented crisis, it seems obvious that both of them are trying their best.

And, ultimately, that's all we can really ask.

## Kwarky



"I'm clean, I swear! I just washed 'em."

## Cold comfort

**L**AST WEEK, in an inexplicable fit of optimism and an uncharacteristic spasm of pre-season preparedness, I bought my wild turkey, deer and bear hunting licences.

And, immediately, a few people I know questioned my sanity.

I understand that too.

The truth is I expect the seasons to go ahead as planned, but, if I had a farm, I wouldn't bet it on this either. If I've learned one thing from this pandemic, it is that, much like last year's bait box, it is full of ugly surprises.

Nevertheless, where I live all the stars are aligning. It seems as if we have perfect pre-season weather for the turkey hunting opener. And, when I say perfect, please know that this is from a turkey's standpoint.

Last night, it was miserably windy and when I walked our dog this morning, there was snow on the ground.

This kind of weather is ideal for the turkeys. Yes, it's cold, but they wear big insulated, feathery coats and get to move around to keep warm, so that's not much of an issue. Plus, they've already made it through the worst of winter.

Hunters, on the other hand, are not so used to this. Nevertheless, we will go to our spots in the pre-dawn darkness, sit with our backs against a frost covered tree and shiver until sun comes up.

And all these things give the birds a definite advantage.

Primarily, it makes it easier for them to see or hear a hunter due to all the shivering and chattering of teeth. Plus, if a turkey can't immediately see a hunter, they just need to look for the pile of optimistically spring-like camouflage against the white

background.

Don't forget, this is also the kind of weather that causes calls to malfunction and decoys to collect blowing snow or frost, which does not exactly make a hen decoy look or sound all that sexy.

Yet, even with all these things stacked against us, hunting turkeys is still preferable to staying inside and self-isolating. For one thing, if you do manage to call one in and harvest it, the little dance you do warms you right up almost immediately. Plus you can hug the warm barrel of your turkey gun after the shot. Hey, no one is watching.

Plus, in the end, no one ever remembers the cold anyway. Instead, they remember the frostbite and hypothermia. Lastly, there is this: If nothing else, turkey hunting on opening day makes a person appreciate good coffee and a hot breakfast.

Now, however, because of COVID-19, we cannot be 100 per cent sure that our tradition will take place this year – although, as of now, the good news is no one has told us any different.

You'd be unreasonable if you thought this was any different than all the other traditions the pandemic has shut down. We are, after all, now living in times where decisions are made and revised based on new evidence and data that reveals itself each and every day. All we can do is hope that our governments will not have to close down travel and cancel unnecessary outdoors recreational activity. And while it would bother me, I also understand my compliance would be a small gesture compared to what others are doing.

I truly hope things get better and this doesn't happen.

Either way, this year could be the year of cold turkey.

**STEVE GALEA**  
Beyond 35



## IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

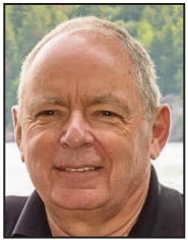
# Resurrection in the spring forest

**A**FTER THE LONG winter illness, colour is returning to the cheeks of my bush lot.

A red-breasted robin hops through the newly-exposed layer of dead leaves, looking for a grub, or anything else edible.

Then there's the slow, silent orange flicker of the wings of an early-returning Monarch butterfly. Or, perhaps it is a Viceroy; the untrained eye finds it difficult to distinguish between the two.

Green patches of wet moss cling to the ancient granite outcrops, and the bases of the naked trees, adding more splotches of colour to a dreary landscape.



**JIM POLING SR.**

*From Shaman's Rock*

And peeking out from the rock crevices are the brightest spots of all – red wintergreen berries glistening in rays of sunshine.

These berries, and their surrounding green waxen leaves, truly are a miracle of the woods. They blossomed into fruit last summer and survived beneath the snow and ice throughout the brutal winter cold.

All are signs of spring's resurrection from the dank forest floor in which trees stand stiffly silent like skeletons. Small but hopeful signals that warmer, more productive times are coming.

Beyond this forest is the chaos of humanity's coronavirus pandemic. Out there, spring has become a season of things lost – lost lives, lost important events, lost incomes.

Here, the forest is quiet and ordered, demonstrating the consistency of nature left alone to exist as it has for thousands of years.

This consistency is seen in the moose track along my forest trail. Every April, when the snow begins to disappear, a moose ambles this path, migrating from winter to summer quarters.

I have yet to see a track from the bear who occupies this forest. I know it must be up and about after hibernation, but I have not seen it, heard it or smelled it.

That's probably because we both practice social distancing. We are both cranky on early mornings before breakfast, so neither wants to come anywhere near the other.

What is awesome about the spring forest is its easy transformation from the cold miseries of winter to the buoyancy of summer.

The little wintergreen plant and its red berries illustrate that beautifully. After so many snowbound months, the berries are ready to do what they were born to do.

Plump and bursting with life, the berries soon will shrivel and rot, dropping miniscule seeds to create new life and fulfill their sole purpose – to endure, to survive and to carry out their role in nature's plan.

The pandemic and its forced isolation have created time to be out here observing the wonders of the awakening forest. All that time once spent doing other things – many of them materialistic things – now is spent thinking and viewing things differently.

It is amazing how our vision widens and becomes more focused when we stop doing all those "other things."

What comes into view more clearly is an important lesson of nature: think ahead and be prepared.

Everything that exists in this forest understands that lesson. The squirrel that procrastinates and does not gather and store enough nuts likely will not survive the winter.

It is a stark lesson: Prepare well or be ready to suffer, or even die.

That was a lesson highlighted by the commission investigating the 2003 SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) outbreak. It emphasized the precautionary principle, which basically is about thinking ahead, preparing and taking action before a situation becomes critical.

There is mounting evidence that if governments, corporations and people in general had paid attention to this principle, the current pandemic would have been less severe.

Another thought prompted by this pandemic, and by a walk in the spring woods, is whether our human activities are drawing us farther away from nature and its many lessons.

We live in a materialistic, money-oriented world. When I look into the forest, I wonder whether we really need to have all those things we think we do. Everything we really need is right here in nature.

Our human world is one we have moulded outside of nature. Thinking about how to change it is too deep and too complicated a thought to work through today.

And, it's likely that the pandemic will end up making some of those changes for us.

# Dental work

**T**O STATE THE obvious, many of us are in some form of lockdown right now. There are so many posts on social media talking about letting go of various daily hygiene rituals. There's no need to shower every day if we're not seeing other people. There's actually no need to shower every day even when we are seeing other people but I'll save that for another time. Beards are getting longer, hairstyles are losing their shape, and nails are not getting painted quite as often. It's kind of funny that this is happening given we do have more time for taking care of the small stuff.

The one area that should be getting an equal amount or extra attention these days is your smile. It could be months before you climb into the dentist's chair again. I believe most offices are closed right now. There must be quite a backlog of appointments building up. I'm scheduled to go in June but I have a feeling it will be postponed. With that in mind, now is the time to jump into the routine of dental care like our lives depend on it. Actually, our lives do depend on it!

Poor oral health can contribute to these potentially life-threatening diseases and conditions:

- Endocarditis: This is the infection of the inner lining of your heart chambers or valves. It can happen when bacteria

or germs from another part of your body spreads through the bloodstream, attaching to areas of the heart.

- Cardiovascular disease: The exact link to cardiovascular disease is not completely understood, but some research suggests that the clogging of arteries might be linked to the inflammation and infections that oral bacteria cause.

- Pneumonia: Some of the bacteria in your mouth can be pulled into your lungs and cause pneumonia and other respiratory diseases.

Now is the time to up our dental hygiene game or at very least to do a review. Here's the checklist:

- Brush your teeth (all of them, inner/outer and chewing surfaces) with a soft-bristled tooth brush;

- Floss between every tooth, every day; and,

- Use a mouthwash to remove any food particles left behind after the first two steps of this process.

The benefit of this extra bit of work is a wonderful smile and a good set of teeth that will get you through any meal that comes your way for the rest of your days!

Something to think about.

*Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at [laurie@thepointforfitness.com](mailto:laurie@thepointforfitness.com).*



**LAURIE SWEIG**

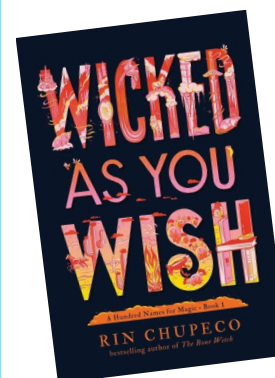
*Practical Fitness*



## April flurries brings ...

Late last week, Minden Hills was blanketed by a dusting of snow, as seen in this image of the Gull River in the downtown on Thursday, April 9. Although the snow melted, snow fell again the next day and left behind accumulations of a few millimetres. /DARREN LUM Staff

## Book of the Month - April



Many years ago, the magical Kingdom of Avalon was left desolate and encased in ice after the evil Snow Queen waged her war. Its former citizens are now refugees in an unfamiliar world devoid of magic. Arizona.

Prince Alexei, the sole survivor of the Avalon royal family, is hiding in a modern town so boring that magic doesn't even work there. Few know his secret identity, but thankfully, his best friend Tala is one of them. A new hope for their abandoned homeland reignites however, when a famous creature of legend, the Firebird, appears for the first time in decades. Alex and Tala must unite with a ragtag group of new friends to journey back to Avalon for a showdown that will change the world as they know it.

This nail-biting quest is the first in an epic new series by Rin Chupeco. Check out the e-book from Haliburton County Public Library's website.



# COVID-19

## Coronavirus

# Possibility of library layoffs broached at board meeting

by CHAD INGRAM  
Times Staff

Whether or not some staff of the Haliburton County Public Library might be laid off during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic was discussed during an April 8 meeting of the library board.

The library's branches have been closed since March 16 amid the outbreak, with the library offering a variety of online services and some staff still working from the buildings using a variety of safety protocols. These include having just one person in smaller buildings, maintaining physical distancing in larger buildings, regular hand-washing and disinfecting of surfaces.

The library system has 17 employees, including five full-time senior staff members, and 12 part-time employees who include branch supervisors, programmers, branch assistants and a courier. Three employees are currently on emergency leave.

"Over the last three weeks, we have taken as many services as possible online," library CEO Bessie Sullivan told board members. "

... We're just starting to get into the groove now."

Some programming includes an online version of the library's Makers series, the planned facilitation of online book clubs, and popular digital daily storytime (Monday through Friday) starring the HCPL's library assistants. The library is also assisting partner organizations with their online programming. In addition to creating online programming, staff are also performing a variety of tasks including inventory, the cancellation and re-organization of certain services, setting up systems to facilitate working from home, community outreach, etc. According to Sullivan, who said full-time staffers have been working more than full-time organizing the transition process, all of that work should last about three months.

"These are trying times for all agencies and organizations," said Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt, noting the situation is the same for municipalities, particularly when it comes to some part-time staff. "Depending how long this goes, there's not going to be a need for those folks."

Moffatt wondered what the plan was for

the library.

"I think we would mimic the [county] process," Sullivan said. After a three-month period, should the situation remain as it currently is, "we would continue to need at least half the staff," Sullivan said.

Highlands East Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall said in his estimation, the situation as it is was likely to last until at least late June.

"That should be a question we should seriously consider at the time," Ryall said.

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts thought any conversation regarding layoffs was premature for the time being.

"You just don't want to get too far ahead of yourself," Roberts said, adding that government directives and the general situation regarding COVID-19 are changing on basically a daily basis. "We only know what we know today."

There was also some talk of the possible secondment of library employees for purposes elsewhere within the county, similar to processes happening in some other municipalities.

County Warden Liz Danielsen said there's been no such discussion at the county level

as of yet.

The digital storytimes have been very popular, garnering as many as 3,000 views, Sullivan said. There was some question of possibly decreasing the frequency of them as school-aged children begin an online learning curriculum in place of attending school, but Sullivan indicated they were largely intended for toddler-aged kids. "It's for people who are stuck at home entertaining kids," she said.

Ryall said he thought the library should be doing all it could to assist parents cooped up at home with children, and Moffatt questioned perhaps continuing some of the popular digital offerings even after the pandemic is over. Sullivan said that would require additional resources.

While the library has asked that patrons with materials keep them at home for the time being, Sullivan said materials do continue to get dropped off, and staff handle them with gloves and sanitized wipes.

The situation has also led to a rise in the borrowing of e-books.

"March actually had the biggest circulation of e-books we've ever had," Sullivan said.

# Tourism association makes recommendations in wake of COVID-19

by CHAD INGRAM  
Times Staff

The COVID-19 pandemic stands to wallop the province's tourism industry, and earlier this week, the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario released a series of recommendations designed to ease the financial burden for tourism operators.

"COVID-19 has had a dramatic and severe impact on the tourism industry in every corner of our province," Beth Potter, president and CEO of TIAO, said in a statement. "We know from our own comprehensive consultations with our members on the front line that businesses are closing, revenues have fallen off a cliff, staff are being laid off and seasonal businesses will not open in the summer. Tourism in Ontario generates \$36 billion in annual receipts and for the communities in which tourism is an integral part of their economy; the short-term impacts of COVID-19 will be significant and long lasting."

TIAO has been conducting a series of surveys amid the outbreak, and its most recent data shows that 59 per cent of tourism businesses are closed temporarily and that more than 20 per cent are at risk of closing permanently in three months' time. Nearly 40 per cent of tourism businesses in the province have laid off staff, and of those business, more than 40 per cent have laid off all, or close to all, of their staff. More than 65 per cent of Ontario's tourism businesses saw a decline in sales/revenue in March of 2020 from March of 2019, and for more than 40 per cent of those businesses, that sales/revenue decline was more than 50 per cent. More than half of seasonal tourism businesses have said they will not open this summer.

While TIAO acknowledges that unprec-

edented amounts of government aid have been made available to assist businesses, the organization is also recommending additional measures including a moratorium on commercial rent and mortgages; increased access to interest-free loans; increased access to direct financial aid; and debt forgiveness.

The province has extended the deadline by which municipalities must pay their education taxes, which means municipalities have been able to extend the deadline by which residents and businesses must pay their property taxes. "Unfortunately, there is no uniformity across the province, so some businesses have not felt that relief," a press release from TIAO states. The organization says complete relief from commercial property taxes would help even more.

TIAO is also asking that the provincial government work with insurance providers to provide relief for tourism operators, and is encouraging insurance providers to co-ordinate and process business interruption coverage claims for businesses that have had to close during the pandemic. "This would include operational costs incurred during this period, and that insurance companies forgive interest on renewal payment plans," a release from TIAO reads.

The organization is also requesting that insurance premium rates be held at 2019 rates for 2020 for impacted businesses, and that an insurance moratorium be co-ordinated for businesses that are able to remain open.

"We continue to examine and evaluate the economic needs of our industry, and work with all levels of government to deliver economic recovery packages that will allow tourism to continue to foster innovation and culture, and drive the economy in the coming years," the release reads.

For more information about TIAO and its advocacy activities, visit <https://www.tiao-ontario.ca/cpages/home>



# Fleming College announces cancellation of Haliburton School of Art + Design summer school programs

The 2020 Haliburton School of Art + Design summer program will be cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Fleming College announced the change last week regarding more than 300 week-long and weekend courses that occur May through September every year.

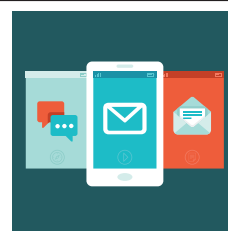
"The summer arts program has been an integral part of the Haliburton community every summer for more than 50 years," said Tom Phillips, vice president, academic experience at Fleming College. "Although this is a difficult decision that impacts thousands of students and many others in the arts community, it is the only option available to us as we hold the health and safety of the community as our highest priority."

The week-long courses and workshops for adults and kids, beginners and experts are held annually at the Haliburton campus, J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School, Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, as well as locations in Toronto and Kleinburg.

"We remain committed to the arts community in Haliburton and will endure this challenge together," said Angela Stukator, dean, Haliburton School of Art + Design. "We love art. We love being creative. We will find a way through this and we will come back stronger than ever."

All students will be contacted by the College in the near future regarding the cancellation and refunds.

Submitted



Have a thought, comment or opinion  
you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to  
[jenn@haliburtonpress.com](mailto:jenn@haliburtonpress.com)



# Stop the Spread

COVID-19 can be deadly.  
Stay home. Save lives.







# Archie Stouffer Elementary School

## Learn@Home program

### Mrs. Patterson’s Class 6A

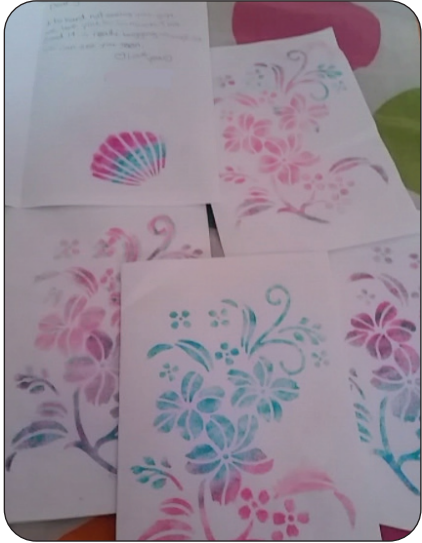
Through the Learn@Home program, Mrs. Patterson’s Class 6A at Archie Stouffer Elementary School was assigned a task to “look for the helpers,” by finding a good news story in the media that highlights some of the people working through the COVID-19 pandemic, and to highlight something good that they have done for their family or community in the past few weeks.

Here are some examples from students as they reflect on the good they have done:

I helped by making cards for people to make them smile.  
I helped people that are special to me. I also helped my sister make cards.  
I felt happy to make them smile. The recipient felt happy and grateful.

By Lilly Casey

Grade 6 student Lilly Casey designed cards with her sister to help bring cheer to people. / Submitted



I help my gramma by raking the yard when she didn’t know. She was very happy after I did it.

By Megan Mercer

My family and I made maple syrup.  
What did I do to help? My brother and I gathered the sap in the backyard. Who did I help? My family.  
How did I feel when I helped? Pretty good.  
Why did I help? I helped because it was something inter-

esting to help with, like staying up late and have something you made.

By Paige Brosseau

What did I do to help?  
I helped by reading a book to someone that didn’t know how to read.  
Who did I help?  
I helped my sister read a book.  
How did I feel when I helped?  
I felt good that I helped someone.  
How did the recipient feel when I helped?  
I think she felt happy because she had no one to read or play with her until I read with her.

By Austin Latanville



“I helped my sister read a book,” said Grade 6 student Austin Latanville. “I felt good that I helped someone. /Submitted

What did I do to help? I email my cousin a couple times a day to see how she is doing. She lives far away and I won’t be able to see each other for awhile and I really enjoy talking to her.

Who did I help? My cousin.  
How did I feel when I helped? Happy.  
How did the recipient feel when I helped? Really good.

By Layla Adams

Something I did in my day that was good is helping watch my little brother while my mom was busy cooking or cleaning. I feel good when I help my mom because it makes her happy.

By Lilli Hie

My parents installed Messenger Kids on my tablet. I got to talk to some of my friends when I miss them. Then Thought that my sister must miss her [friends] too. She does not have a device though. I let her use mine to call our cousin. It made me feel good and I think my sister felt good too.

By Grace Alder



“It made me feel good and I think my sister felt good too,” said Grade 6 student Grace Alder, of helping her sister have a chance to chat with her cousin. / Submitted

I downloaded Snapchat so I could finally talk to my friend who moved to New Brunswick last year.  
How did I help: by seeing and talking to my friend.  
Who did I help: my friend.  
How did I feel: awesome.  
How did my friend feel: great.

By Owen Whitteker

I didn’t fight with my brother so it helped my dad. And it made me feel happy.

By Jolie Warford

What did I do to help: I helped and did chores.  
Who did I help: I helped my mom.  
How did I feel when I helped: good.  
Why did I help: I helped because my mom is working and she can’t do it.

By Jace Mills

### Mrs. McArthur’s kindergarten class

Through the Learn@Home program, Mrs. McArthur’s kindergarten class at Archie Stouffer Elementary School have been sharing photos of how they “Feed All Four,” in line with the Trillium Lakelands District School Board’s initiative based on Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs and the First Nations medicine wheel that focuses on caring for the body, mind, spirit and emotions of an individual to optimize achievement and well-being.

“We have ‘Fed All Four’ (body, mind, emotions and spirit) by experiencing nature and the outdoors, exercising and [working on] academic tasks to help grow our brains,” said McArthur. “A few of us have also had the opportunity to connect through video and Google Meet to help us continue building our oral language and social skills from a distance.”



Caleb McElwain got creative and shared this photo with his teacher. / Submitted



Kindergarten student Luke Boyko and Grade 2 student Nadia Boyko found this large piece of birchbark while exploring outside. /Submitted



Ben Woodard shared this photo with his teacher of his exploration in the forest. /Submitted



Madeline Duguay experimented with food dye at home to learn about the results of mixing colours, before making a volcano full of baking soda erupt by pouring vinegar and citric acid into it./Submitted

Left, Colby Richardson, a student in Mrs. McArthur’s kindergarten class, demonstrates how he studies sight words while learning at home. /Submitted



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# SIRCH rallies public with Sewing for a Great Cause

by **DARREN LUM**  
*Times Staff*

SIRCH Community Services and Haliburton Highlands Health Services are asking for the public's help to build an inventory of fabric homemade masks for Haliburton County.

Although HHHS currently has an adequate supply of masks, homemade fabric masks can be a viable option if other supplies have been exhausted, and can also be an option for the public.

SIRCH is collecting the masks through the initiative, which is being called Sewing for a Great Cause.

"HHHS has first dibs, of course, on any masks received by SIRCH," said Gena Robertson, executive director of SIRCH in a prepared statement. "But we hope we receive many thousands so they are available to give to cashiers, delivery people, tenants in social housing, people in food services, anyone caring for someone with COVID-19."

Robertson wasn't sure of how many masks have been made, but knows a movement has begun.

"I know people are sewing like mad across the county and there is lots of chatter on various social media. Some people are sewing for other causes so honestly I have no idea what to expect. We are aiming for 800 for HHHS, and then enough to offer sanitized, individually bagged cloth masks to any organization or business that needs them," she wrote in an

email.

Robertson said quality control for the masks will be ensured by a nurse, who has offered to assess them before they are distributed. Then HHHS will wash and sanitize them, and after they get their 800, will send them back to SIRCH to be individually bagged by volunteers.

"A bit of work but totally worth it," she said.

The masks must adhere to specifications, including being a double fabric, pleated mask design made from dark polyester or 100 per cent cotton on the outside, and 100 per cent lighter-coloured cotton inside. SIRCH recommends pre-washing the cotton fabric to allow for shrinkage, and creating the masks with elastic ear loops and cloth ties.

Wearing a homemade mask, SIRCH said, cannot replace healthy practices such as regular hand washing and preventative measures such as avoiding touching the face and physical distancing.

"But masks may help reduce droplet transmissions in closer quarters with people," a press release states.

## Repair Cafes suspended

Like a lot of public events during this health crisis, SIRCH's Repair Cafes have been suspended.

Robertson said physical interaction is a key component to the concept so a wait and see

approach is being adopted for its return.

"The current Repair Cafe model is one of connection – so people hanging out, repairing things together. I think if our new reality is different, the model could be adapted but we just need to see what the 'new normal' is going to be. Repair Cafe is about sharing skills and experience in a face-to-face way. It's not at all like online learning or DIY videos. The personal connection is key. So we'd have to see how to keep that," she wrote in an email. "Or if, in awhile, we don't need to continue social distancing, then probably we could continue with the [Repair Cafes] as is."

The Repair Cafe co-ordinator, Chris Varga, who is now a volunteer and booster for SIRCH, said even though the events have been suspended indefinitely, his passion to help and collaborate with the volunteer base and the community of Repair Cafe groups around the world continues.

"I really want to help regardless of whether I'm getting paid or not. I want to ensure the Repair Cafe idea initiative does not just fizzle out and die," he said. "We have an opportunity here to engage people who are helpers, who are fixers, who can work in situations like this."

Among the group of more than 25 fixers are Lori DaRosa and Jerry Misner of Consumer Parts Source, a Haliburton-based business that sells parts and accessories.

Varga said DeRosa is making masks despite an injury that will require surgery.

"She's the prime example again of somebody who said, 'I may not be able to do it all myself so I've tried to get all my neighbours

to do it as well,'" he said.

Misner is using his technical skills to help. Since the SIRCH Thrift Warehouse in Haliburton has closed, there's a collection of electronic items no one knew what to do with. Misner is dismantling many of them into their separate parts and re-using any components of value.

It is serving as an example for other repair cafe locations, who remain in contact with Varga and other co-ordinators.

"They're impressed with what Jerry's doing so they are inspired by that as well. They thought that was a good idea," he said.

See [repaircafe.org](http://repaircafe.org) for more about the global community of repair cafe groups, who remain in contact, looking to re-invent the idea and how to use the philosophy and collection of skills to help.

The mask-making effort needs many people to contribute so it's not just a few doing a lot of work, Varga said. If there are a thousand people each making one mask, it's better than a small group, each making dozens.

He encouraged people to spread the word about the mask initiative.

"There is no shortage of people who would love ... to be mobilized and engaged and feel useful in a time where many of us are just sitting feeling helpless," he said.

For full details about the masks see [sirch.on.ca/2020/04can-you-sew-sewing-for-a-great-cause](http://sirch.on.ca/2020/04can-you-sew-sewing-for-a-great-cause).

Drop your clean masks in the bin outside SIRCH Central, 2 Victoria Street, Haliburton any weekday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., and on weekends between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

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	9	3						
				5			1	
					8			6
5		8			1			
9				7			5	1
	7							
		2	3			6		
		1			7		8	5

Level: Intermediate

### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

*Answers on page 14*



The SIRCH Repair Cafe sessions have been suspended indefinitely since social distancing measures have been implemented in the area due to the coronavirus, but the spirit of collaboration continues with SIRCH's Sewing for a Great Cause. SIRCH, which is serving as a collection point for fabric masks, is asking for the public's help to make masks for HHHS and for the public. /FILE PHOTO



# Former Hawks player joins Battalion

by **DARREN LUM**  
Times Staff

North Bay Battalion fans will soon learn what Haliburton Highlands character and work ethic is all about when Alex Little makes his OHL debut this coming season.

The former Red Hawks hockey player, who played for the red and white in 2018-2019, was drafted 41st overall last week by the Battalion in the 2020 OHL under-18 priority selection. He joins Ty Nelson of the Oakville Rangers, who was selected first overall.

Little watched the draft from his home in Minden with his parents via a live-stream on YouTube.

"I was in shock at first but my family was quick to congratulate me. It took a little bit to set in but it was a great feeling, knowing that a dream since I was a little kid was now real life. This definitely ranks number one for personal achievements so far. It's what I've been working for my whole life up to this point, so for it to actually happen it feels pretty surreal," he wrote in a message.

He is excited for the next chapter of his hockey career after he was drafted by the OHL's North Bay Battalion, but isn't looking past the latest achievement.

"I'm just taking it step by step, really. It started first with making a team here and then making a AAA team and then juniors are the next step. Taking it one step at a time and hope for the best, really," he said.

Little started skating at three and playing hockey as a goalie at six years old in Haliburton at the local rink. That lasted only a year before he switched to playing defence.

The five-foot-11 defenceman played for the AAA North Bay Trappers major midget team (and played for Trappers' affiliate team, the Powassan Voodoos in the Northern Ontario Junior Hockey League) this past season after playing for the Hawks and the AAA Central Ontario Wolves minor midget team in Lindsay the year before.

As a member of the Trappers, Little was named the Great North Midget League's most gentlemanly player and was named to the GNML All-Star team, as a result of his 29 points (nine goals and 20 assists) tallied in 38 regular-season games.

There have been other Haliburton players drafted to the Battalion such as NHLer Matt Duchene, who plays for the Nashville Predators and former NHLer Cody Hodgson, who was also drafted a year before Duchene. The last local hockey player to be drafted was Ryan Hall two years ago.

Little said he remembers watching Duchene play for the Battalion in Brampton when he was six – the Battalion has since moved to North Bay.

"I cheered for the Battalion way back then. To see the success that Matt had makes me confident that it's a good program run in North Bay. It also feels like it was meant to be, considering the last three hockey players drafted from Haliburton County were drafted to [the Battalion]," he wrote. The team's move from Brampton to North Bay suits Little well, who said hockey is the night out for people on a



**Former Red Hawks defenceman Alex Little is excited for the next step in his hockey career after being drafted by the OHL's North Bay Battalion in the 2020 OHL under-18 Priority Selection. This past year Little played for the North Bay Trappers AAA midget team and was on the Hawks varsity hockey team in the 2018-19 season./DARREN LUM Staff**

Saturday night during the hockey season.

He welcomes the thought that he could be part of another wave of skilled hockey players from the area to advance to the higher levels of hockey.

"I helped out with the Timbits and I just love hockey and to keep it in the community and get more and more people playing it, it would be awesome. It's not a cheap sport at all, but if I'm part of helping kids love the sport still [then that's great. I'm] really just playing for fun. That's how I got here is [by] playing for fun. If you think of it as a job from when you're little then it takes away from why you're really out and a part of the sport," he said.

He is thankful for the support he has received from his parents Chris and Alec and older sisters Erin and Jamie.

"They've pushed me through everything, whether it was sports or academics. They were there for me to make sure that I'm doing my best and have what I needed to succeed. Really good support," he said. "Coaches of course. They're always a big part of it. I've had great coaches my whole life in Haliburton and moving away I still got that same support so it's a really big help to where I've got so far."

Without this support, he can't imagine he would have been

drafted to the OHL.

Little loves the competitiveness of hockey and the feeling he gets skating with the puck.

"There's a rush, skating around so fast out there on the ice. There's a bit of physicality ... I love scoring. I love contact. The speed. It's an all-around great game," he said.

Although he only played for the Red Hawks, who were coached by Jason Morissette, in the 2018-2019 season, the experience has stayed with him because of the people he met and the lessons he learned.

"You get people from all categories of hockey out there. From people who stay at home and play to AAA players. And to play with older guys and just learn their ways and learn ... new tricks. And how to be not only as an athlete outside of school, but somebody who shows good character from older guys like [that year's captain] Owen Smith and [goalie] Carson Sisson, who have been through the program. That was really cool," he said. "Playing for your own school and getting your own fan support. It's pretty cool because when I played in Lindsay you don't know a lot of the people. Like here you have people making signs for your school. It's really awesome."

## Getting a fix of two-wheeled fun during COVID-19

by **DARREN LUM**  
Times Staff

A middle-school teacher with a love for cycling is trying to get as many young people on a bike as possible during the health crisis.

Blake Paton, a teacher at J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School, is asking the public to donate unloved and derelict bicycles, which he will repair and distribute to local families in need. Pick-up is also available if required. Paton is also offering repairs for people for free and is encouraging those who are able, to donate to the food bank as payment.

Coming up on his 25th year of teaching in the area, he wanted to offer others the same freedom he feels when he goes for a ride.

"You know that there's bikes out there that don't have riders who love them and there are riders out there who [would love] to have a bike. It's a matter of connecting the dots. I can't really do my job as a phys-ed teacher the way I normally would, but what I can do is help put kids on bikes so that when I tell them, as part of their daily fitness routine to go out

and get a bike ride in or run then they can do that. It's a time when kids have been cooped up at home and they're stuck on the property and the roads are almost traffic free right now. It's like, 'Hey, go for a bike ride. Go for a bike ride and feel a little bit of freedom [from] this madness that we're living through right now,'" he said.

Catherine Carr of Haliburton picked up a repaired mountain bike for her 12-year-old son, Addison.

She said her son was excited to ride his bike, but discovered it was in disrepair and had been using her bike in the interim.

Carr learned about the opportunity offered by Paton on Facebook and welcomed the chance to donate to the food bank so her son could ride his bike.

Paton said being outside on a bicycle is one of the things people can still do.

"If bikes aren't working then kids can't use them. If you don't have a bike then you can't bike, so it's a problem we can fix," he said.

For more information contact Paton through Twitter at @monsieurpaton, or email at Blake.Paton@tldsb.on.ca or see Blake Paton on Facebook.



**Teacher Blake Paton is looking to the public for bikes he can repair so he can donate them to children in need, or help those who need repairs so they can ride during the health crisis. For more information contact Paton through Twitter at @monsieurpaton, and email at Blake.Paton@tldsb.on.ca or see Blake Paton at Facebook./DARREN LUM Staff**



# Wood stacking contest beats COVID blues

Places for People is encouraging people to get outside and be creative as they do their chores. The housing charity is asking county residents to “channel your inner woodchuck” and take a photo of the innovative way the wood is stacked.

“Is it strong? Is it long? Is it high to the sky? Does it look like the Eiffel Tower or give woodland creatures a place to hide?” the contest materials ask.

To enter, take a photo of your creatively stacked wood and send it to [admin.assistant@placesforpeople.ca](mailto:admin.assistant@placesforpeople.ca) and post to Facebook or Instagram tagging Places for People and

#getstacking.

All entries must be received by May 15. The first prize is a \$100 gift card, second and third prizes are \$50 gift cards. Sponsors are Castle Building Centres and Moonlight Bay Tent and Trailer Park.

Although there is no entry fee to the contest, Places for People is accepting donations via e-transfer to [admin.assistant@placesforpeople.ca](mailto:admin.assistant@placesforpeople.ca), through Canada Helps and through PayPal. Go to [placesforpeople.ca](http://placesforpeople.ca) for full contest information.

Staff

# Virtual Pedal For Hope Tour 2020

The 16th annual Pedal For Hope cycling tour won't be heading into the schools this year, but that's not stopping them from honouring their pledge to help kids in our community living with cancer.

The Canadian Cancer Society is excited to announce that this year's tour has moved online for the 2020 Virtual Pedal For Hope Tour.

The 2020 Virtual Pedal For Hope tour will run from May 4 to June 5, with a goal to raise \$50,000 through online fundraising to support pediatric cancer research as well as the local Pediatric Family Counselling program. The virtual tour will include video challenges for participants as well as cancer prevention messages.

This year the tour is open to anyone in the community to participate or donate. Participants can sign up at [www.cancer.ca/pedalforhope](http://www.cancer.ca/pedalforhope) and start fundraising today. Throughout the tour they will be asked to share their stories as well as videos and pictures of challenges and head shaves/pony tail cuts. Pedal For Hope hats (for head shaves and pony tail cuts only) and top online fundraising prizes will be available thanks to prize sponsors.

Anyone wishing to donate to the campaign can visit [www.cancer.ca/pedalforhope](http://www.cancer.ca/pedalforhope).

For more information, the team has created a welcome video that can be shared: <https://youtu.be/Tm75P1cbYqs>

Submitted

# Municipal governments issue joint letter to the construction industry on essential services

The following is a press release issued jointly by the four municipalities of Haliburton County:

On April 3, 2020 the Province of Ontario revised the Essential Services list to stop the Spread of COVID-19 and as part of that revision “Construction” has been limited to specific allowances.

As of 11:59 p.m. April 4, 2020 construction sites across Ontario shall be limited to the following parameters:

1. Construction projects and services associated with the healthcare sector, including new facilities, expansions, renovations and conversion of spaces that could be repurposed for health care space.
2. Construction projects and services required to ensure safe and reliable operations of, or to provide new capacity in, critical provincial infrastructure, including transit, transportation, energy and justice sectors beyond the day-to-day maintenance.
3. Critical industrial construction activities required for,
  - the maintenance and operations of petrochemical plants and refineries,
  - significant industrial petrochemical projects where preliminary work has already commenced,
  - industrial construction and modifications to existing industrial structures limited solely to work necessary for the production, maintenance, and/or enhancement of Personal Protective Equipment, medical devices (such as ventilators), and other identified products directly related to combatting the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Residential construction projects where,
  - a footing permit has been granted for single family, semi-detached and townhomes
  - an above grade structural permit has been granted for condominiums, mixed use and other buildings, or
  - the project involves renovations to residential properties and construction work was started before April 4, 2020.
5. Construction and maintenance activities necessary to

temporarily close construction sites that have paused or are not active and to ensure ongoing public safety.

Under the provincial mandate, construction cannot be started unless the project falls within the essential list above.

Effective April 5, 2020, the Building Departments for the municipalities of Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al, Highlands East, and Minden Hills will not be issuing any new building or septic permits. We know there are many projects in the final stages of design and are ready for submission for application. We will continue to accept applications for review, but will not issue the permit until the Province lifts the emergency order. We encourage those wishing to apply for a permit to do so electronically.

Building inspections will continue to be completed on projects that were started prior to April 4, 2020, subject to COVID-19 safe work practices. Please call your respective municipality to book these inspections. Please note, inspectors will not enter a premises that is occupied.


The above noted conditions do not exempt an individual from rectifying an unsafe condition (including septic systems, or structural failure) during this time. Should a municipality place an order on a property, it is the responsibility of the property owner to remedy the situation within the time-lines and requirements of the municipality. It will be at the municipality's discretion to determine if a permit is available for the work to be carried out during this time.

Septic systems that have failed or require repair in accordance with an Order to Remedy will receive a permit for replacement.

Building Department staff are not responsible for confirming what workplaces are essential and communicating only what inspections we are able to complete. Essential Workplaces information is available by calling the Stop the Spread Business Information Line at 1-888-444-3659 or by visiting the website <https://www.ontario.ca/page/list-essential-workplaces>.

As with everything, these directions are subject to change based on further direction from the Province of Ontario, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and/or the OBOA.

Should you have any questions please contact us for more information.



**Call for Proposal**

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is inviting sealed bids from those interested in submitting proposals for the following project:

Screen and Stack Winter Sand  
PWP-01-20

Closing Date: Friday, May 1, 2020 at 3:00 pm (ET)


Proposal and submission documents can be found at [www.algonquinhighlands.ca](http://www.algonquinhighlands.ca)

**In response to the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic, the Township of Algonquin Highlands office is closed. Please leave proposals in the drop box at the entrance to the main office at 1123 North Shore Road.**

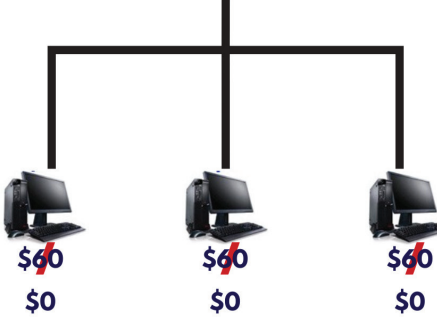
For further information contact:  
Adam Thorn, Operations Manager  
Township of Algonquin Highlands  
[athorn@algonquinhighlands.ca](mailto:athorn@algonquinhighlands.ca)  
705-489-2379

## SUDOKU SOLUTION

7	6	5	1	8	3	4	9	2
1	9	3	7	2	4	5	6	8
2	8	4	9	5	6	3	1	7
4	1	7	5	9	8	2	3	6
5	2	8	6	3	1	7	4	9
9	3	6	4	7	2	8	5	1
6	7	9	8	4	5	1	2	3
8	5	2	3	1	9	6	7	4
3	4	1	2	6	7	9	8	5



**Business Network**



We've been asking ourselves here at SolidState, "What can we do to help our community weather the chaos that the COVID-19 outbreak is causing to help businesses stay open?"

With forced closures as our government continues plea for social distancing, the only option for many is to work from home. But what if that feels impossible?

Are you feeling uncertain, even overwhelmed and stressed about how to manage your business going forward?

If so SolidState Computer Solution is stepping up to get you and your business through this crisis.

**Give us a call today to learn about our FREE REMOTE OFFICE Service.**

**Visit [mysolidstate.ca](http://mysolidstate.ca) to sign up or call us at 705-457-3962**

Greg Moore  
Township of Algonquin Highlands  
[gmoore@algonquinhighlands.ca](mailto:gmoore@algonquinhighlands.ca)  
705-489-2379 ext. 330

Karl Korpela  
Municipality of Dysart et al  
[kkorpela@dysartet.al](mailto:kkorpela@dysartet.al)  
705-457-1740 ext. 627

Laurie Devolin  
Municipality of Highlands East  
[ldevolin@highlandseast.ca](mailto:ldevolin@highlandseast.ca)  
705-447-0051 ext. 440

Colin McKnight  
Township of Minden Hills  
[cmcknight@mindenhills.ca](mailto:cmcknight@mindenhills.ca)  
705-286-1260 ext. 210





*At NFTC, the health and welfare of our community, and our family of employees is of the utmost importance. During these uncertain times, our team remains committed to our customers."*

– Grant Roughley,  
VICE PRESIDENT

NFTC has implemented stringent measures that put the health and safety of our community first. Additionally, all of NFTC’s TV customers will have access to a variety of Free Channel Previews for a limited time.

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# Minden Times Classifieds

Call 705-286-1288 classifieds@haliburtonpress.com Deadline 4 pm Each Monday

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Hyland Ice Supply a division of Kemcroft Enterprises Ltd. is now accepting applications for Drivers Helpers. Please email resume to [info@hylandice.com](mailto:info@hylandice.com) or call 705-448-2973.

### 300 FOR RENT

3 bedroom house for rent. Available May 15. \$1,000 plus utilities. **705 455 7092**

Luxury two bedroom apt. for rent in Minden. \$1,500.00 per month all inclusive. Available mid May. **Call 705-878-6460**

FOR RENT

FOR RENT

### 400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



#### Tender Call for Grounds Keeping Contract

Canada Post is inviting tenders for Grounds Keeping to start May 1, 2020 at the Kinmount Post Office

Specifications may be picked up at the Post Office located at 4078 County Rd. 121

Quotes must be received by **April 17, 2020**

### 360 REAL ESTATE WANTED

Wanted exclusive Permission to hunt (bow hunting only) deer on your property. 63 yr old cottager very responsible and respectful Will pay cash. Top rate. Please contact me at [neil@lairdandson.com](mailto:neil@lairdandson.com) or **416 518 1619**.

Family looking for vacant lot in the Minden area to build home. Willing to pay up to \$100,000. **Please call 416-994-5789**

### 380 COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT

SELF CONTAINED STORAGE UNITS for rent, discounts available located on Industrial Park Road in Haliburton. **Call 705 457-1224.**

Storage Rental Space Available. Units from 5.5' x 10' to 11' x 24'. Please send inquiries to [blakestorage13513@gmail.com](mailto:blakestorage13513@gmail.com) or 705-457-2250

*Elbow*  
**Need More Room?**

### 400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### 400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



The Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) currently has exciting opportunities available for energetic individuals to join our team!

#### Registered Nurses

Candidates are expected to be available for both Minden and Haliburton Hospital locations. In addition, opportunities are available in our two Long Term Care facilities, Hyland Wood and Hyland Crest. The RN is responsible for providing comprehensive care to patients, with predictable and unpredictable outcomes who may or may not be clinically stable.

The successful candidate will possess a current triage course certification, Coronary Care 1, and current ACLS are required to work in the Emergency Department. Candidates that lack advanced certification in Coronary Care 2 and Emergency Nursing 1 and 2 may be hired with the requirement to independently attain these qualifications within 6 months-2 years of hire, depending on the certification, in order to work in all areas.

Two years of acute care practice is required; previous emergency department or specialty department experience of 1 year or more is preferred. The successful candidate will possess a diploma/degree in Nursing and a current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario. Recent experience is preferred.

#### Registered Practical Nurses

Provide client care in accordance with the Professional Standards of the College of Nurses of Ontario. She or he, as a member of the health care team, has a significant role in promoting health, preventing illness, and helping clients attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a clients condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable.

RPN's must have a diploma in Nursing, a Current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario, current BCLS, with regular and consistent participation of CNO's quality assurance and reflective practice program. Must have a demonstrated knowledge of RPN scope of practice, excellent organization and prioritization skills and an ability to read, write and communicate effectively in English. Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work well with patients/family, staff, physicians and the community are critical. Added Nursing skills for RPN's In addition, the successful candidate must be available to work day, evening and night shifts, along with weekends and statutory holidays. A commitment to attend work on a consistent basis is also a requirement.

#### Personal Support Workers

Provides resident care in relation to activities of daily living, quality of life, environment management and continuous communication. She or he, as a member of the health care team, has a significant role in promoting health, preventing illness, and helping residents attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a resident's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable.

Candidates must have successfully completed a Personal Support Worker program that meets one of the following: The vocational standards established by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, the standards established by the National Association of Career Colleges, or The standards established by the Ontario Community Support Association and is at least 600 hours in length. Experience in working with the acutely or chronically ill and/or palliative clients preferred, understanding of MDS RAI is an asset, good problem solver, organizing your own work, excellent recording and reporting skills, personal care skills, ability to read, write and communicate effectively in English, CPR Preferred.

Further details and how to apply are available on our website at <https://www.hhhs.ca>

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#### Labour Position

Francis Thomas Contracting, serving Haliburton County for over 80 years is looking for a Labourer

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*In Loving Memory of*  
**Keith Robinson**  
*It is with great sadness that our family announces that Keith Robinson passed away peacefully at Lakeridge Health Centre, Oshawa on April 11 2020 in his 83rd year.*  
Beloved husband of Ethel (nee Hall) for 62 years. Dear father of Mike (Chris), Don (Delisa), Tom (Linda) and Amie. Loving grandfather of Paige, Jordy (Alysha), Craig, Aren, Jessie (James) Brendon (Courtney) Brittany (Derek), Cody (Anna). Beloved Great Grandfather of Xavier, Emily, Julie & Oliver Keith (due in May).  
Keith was loved by many friends and family. He and Ethel enjoyed their retirement years in Minden. He will be sorely missed by all.  
A celebration of life will be held at a later date when it is safe to do so. Cremation has taken place  
Memorial Donations to the Alzheimer Society of Durham would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.  
  
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## New x-ray installed at Minden Hospital

Individuals who make use of the facilities of the Minden Hospital will now have access to modern and efficient X-ray equipment. The new machine has been donated to the Hospital by the Minden Rotary Club, with the assistance of the Minden Red Cross and an anonymous donor.

The 31 member service club provided \$30,000 of the \$39,088 purchase price, with the local Red Cross contributing \$4000 and the anonymous donor providing \$5000.

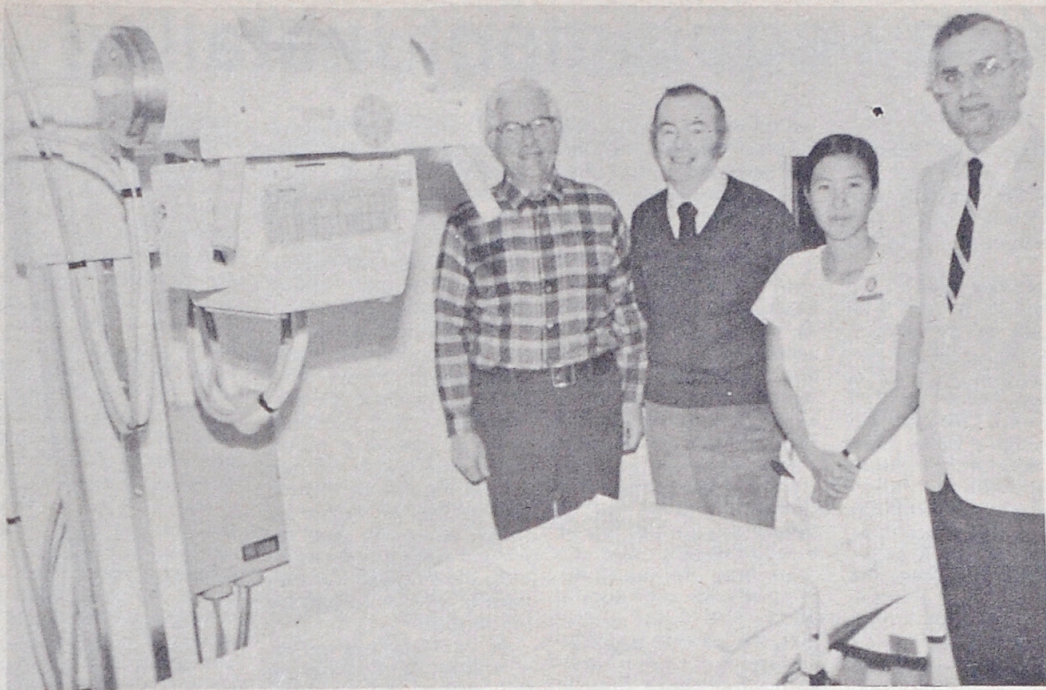
The installation of the new

Rotary representatives Ray Cox left, and Minden club president Al Mayo, right, flank Red Cross president David McKinlay and x-ray technician Phyllis Chuang as they examine the new x-ray equipment.

Phillips X-ray machine, completed in late January, coincided with renovations currently underway at the hospital. This allowed a special lead-lined room to be built especially for the new equipment. The previous X-ray device was used in the emergency admitting area and, while portable screens were available to help block the scattering of the x-rays, some felt it was inadequate.

The new x-ray room has also been designed to provide additional space for

(more on page 2)



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# The Times



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Wednesday, February 9, 1983

## SPA status approved

Official confirmation of approval in principle for Minden's Special Policy Area (SPA) designation in the community's core has been received from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Ministry of Natural Resources. The SPA status was the result of a long period of negotiations between the municipality and the provincial government over the designation of a hazard zone adjacent to the Gull River.

The granting of SPA status, in principle, was hammered out at a meeting January 13 between representatives of the township and the two

ministries. According to the letter received late last month, the special status was based on the following criteria:

- the urban centre of the township, commonly known as Minden, is subject to flooding.

- the ministries' cursory investigation of the problem has found that major portions of the urban centre are probably below the regional and 1:100 year flood lines. Application of the two-zone concept of flood plain management does not appear feasible.

- a large component of the community's commercial,

retail, industrial and residential development is located in the flood plain. Rehabilitation, redevelopment

ment or replacement of structures in such areas are seen as necessary to continued community viability and major relocations do not appear feasible.

- there are potential areas of infilling adjacent to existing development where flooding appears to be shallow and of a low velocity.

The letter points out the granting of the SPA in principle does not necessarily mean that it will be allowed when the official plan study is

carried out. Approval of SPA, according to the letter, "...will depend on the conclusions of a number of studies that need to be completed."

Among the studies which have to be carried out are the delineation of the flood lines for the community, a flood damage reduction program study, and the introduction of an official plan for the area with policies which reflect the fact the area is located in a flood plain.

Both ministries have offered the municipality their assistance in collecting data to support the SPA and for the completion of the official plan study. A representative from each ministry has been named to work with municipal officials in preparing the necessary material.

## Council rejects public input for pay rates

A suggestion that the public be consulted about the amount of the honorarium elected members of the municipal council receive has been rejected by the Anson, Hindon and Minden Municipal council. The matter was raised at the January 27 meeting by Councillor Gary Kenney.

Kenney told the councillors that there would be value in including the public in setting the rates. He said the public should have a say in the honorarium, the expense allowance and the workload of the councillors. He rejected the proposal that including representatives of the public in determining the rates would reduce the council's standing in the minds of the electors. He said it would be a good way to involve the public in the council's activities.

Under Kenney's suggestion a committee which would

include representatives of the ratepayers and members of council, would make recommendation with regard to the amount councillors receive. He pointed out that the committee would only be able to advise and the council would still retain the final say in determining how much they would receive.

Kenney said the issue was similar to one discussed

earlier in the meeting regarding performance records for the township employees. "In effect, we are employees of the municipality," he said, "we should invite our employers (the public) to become involved."

Deputy Reeve Ed Pergolas rejected the suggestion saying that a fair method of setting the honorarium has now been established. He said a formula based on a time and motion study carried out in another municipality is being used as a basis for setting the pay rates here. He noted the municipality would not be able to afford to carry out its own time and motion study. The involvement of the citizens would mean individuals who are too close to the subject would be asked to make the assessment.

Councillor Larry Cummins said he felt the responsibility of setting the council's wage rates rested with the council. "That is why we were elected," he commented, "to set the rates."

Councillor Pat Burk agreed with that assessment. She added that individual members of the public would not be aware of the amount of time and effort members of council put in to do the job.

The motion, as proposed by Councillor Kenney, did not receive a seconder, and so the matter was dropped.

## Dump proposal to be tried

Tentative approval has been given to the establishment of a dump runners' corner at the Scotch Line Landfill site. Approval of the idea came on a split vote at the January 27 meeting of Anson, Hindon and Minden township council.

The idea was first proposed earlier this year by Councillor Gary Kenney. He suggested that a special area could be set aside at the site where individuals could leave articles which they feel would be useful to others. Those visiting the dump would be permitted to remove, free of charge, any items found in the dump runner's corner.

A representative of the

Ministry of the Environment, Wayne Moore, attended the meeting. His ministry is responsible for setting standards for waste disposal sites in the province.

Moore explained that this was the first time he was aware such a proposal had been made in Ontario. He said in some instances, the municipality may contract for the salvaging of metals or paper at a dump, but it is usually carried out by one individual. He noted that his ministry encourages this sort of activity since it involves recycling of useful material.

However, he also pointed out that problems could arise if the general public were

allowed to rummage through the leavings at the site. He said there could be problems with health hazards and concerns about liability. He did concur however, that setting aside a separate area for useful items could be classified as a form of resource recovery.

Councillor Larry Cummins said the idea could lead to problems at the dump. He said, for example, that those visiting the dump could leave household garbage at the dump runners' corner and thereby create problems with refuse blowing about the area. "We're just asking for trouble with this idea," Cummins commented. "There will be garbage all over the place."

Moore said the municipality would have to weigh the benefits of the idea against the extra problems it might create at the dump site. He noted one benefit, pointing out that for every item taken home, it was one item less to be buried.

Kenney said he did not expect the idea to result in additional costs for the township. "I would hope the corner would operate of its own accord," he commented. "If it is going to require extensive supervision, I don't think we should do it." The councillor admitted that he was a "volunteer committee of one" who was willing to police the corner to ensure it did not

(more on page 3)

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